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Letter dated 21 November 2006 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

The members of the Security Council have carefully considered your report on the establishment of a special tribunal for Lebanon (S/2006/893), submitted in accordance with resolution 1664 (2006), as well as the presentation by your Legal Counsel (S/2006/893/Add.1).

They welcome the conclusion of the negotiation with the Government of Lebanon, as requested in resolution 1664 (2006).

The members of the Security Council are satisfied with the Agreement annexed to the report, including the Statute of the Special Tribunal.

With regard to the financing of the Special Tribunal, they support option 2, as set out in paragraph 49 of your report, and recommend therefore the inclusion in the Agreement of the corresponding article, which would read:

> The expenses of the Special Tribunal shall be borne in the following manner:
>
> (a) Fifty-one per cent of the expenses of the Tribunal shall be borne by voluntary contributions from States;
>
> (b) Forty-nine per cent of the expenses of the Tribunal shall be borne by the Government of Lebanon.
>
> It is understood that the Secretary-General will commence the process of establishing the Tribunal when he has sufficient contributions in hand to finance the establishment of the Tribunal and twelve months of its operations, plus pledges equal to the anticipated expenses of the following twenty-four months of the Tribunal's operation. Should voluntary contributions be insufficient for the Tribunal to implement its mandate, the Secretary-General and the Security Council shall explore alternate means of financing the Tribunal.

The members of the Security Council invite you to proceed, together with the Government of Lebanon, in conformity with the Constitution of Lebanon, with the final steps for the conclusion of the Agreement.

They look forward to being kept informed of developments regarding the establishment of the Special Tribunal.

(*Signed*) Jorge **Voto-Bernales**
President of the Security Council

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